

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 02424 250521Z

12

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 240731Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3065

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON ADMISSION OF PRG TO
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF: STATE 062535

1. SUMMARY: VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR THIEP, IN FAREWELL CALL APRIL 19, EXPRESSED CONCERN TO ME THAT GOA HAS DECIDED TO ABSTAIN ON FUTURE INVITATIONS TO PRG TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ORGANIZATIONS. HE HAD ASKED GOA TO RECONSIDER MATTER AND HAD BEEN PROMISED DECISION IN NEXT FEW DAYS. HE ASKED ME FOR ASSISTANCE. I REPLIED WE WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF RUMP GOVERNMENTS IN GENERAL AND OF THE PRG IN PARTICULAR, DRAWING ON POINTS IN REFTEL. I REVIEWED MATTER OF PRG PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WITH MIN FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILLESEE ON APR 24. WILLESEE SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK CAREFULLY INTO ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR NGUYEN PHUONG THIEP PAID A FAREWELL CALL ON ME APRIL 19. HE WILL BE LEAVING CANBERRA MAY 1 FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS LEAVE AND CONSULTATION IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 02424 250521Z

SAIGON BEFORE TRAVELLING TO HIS NEXT POST AS AMBASSADOR

TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

3. THIEP MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN DISTURBED TO LEARN RECENTLY FROM THE AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILLESEE HAD DECIDED THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD ABSTAIN ON FUTURE INVITATIONS TO THE PRG TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND ORGANIZATIONS. WILLESEE, ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR THIEP, HAD BEEN CRITICIZED BY THE LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY CAUCAS AFTER THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION VOTED AGAINST AN INVITATION TO THE PRG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF WAR IN GENEVA ON FEBRUARY 28. THE CRITICS WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY HAD ALLEGED THAT A VOTE AGAINST THE INVITATION TO THE PRG WAS INCONSISTENT WITH AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY POLICY. ACCORDING TO THIEP, WILLESEE REPORTEDLY BELIEVED THAT ABSTENTION ON SUCH ISSUES IN THE FUTURE WOULD REPRESENT A SUITABLE "NEUTRAL" POSITION THAT WOULD AVOID CRITICISM OF HIM WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY.

4. THIEP SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER FURTHER WITH DFA IN ANTICIPATION THAT A SIMILAR INVITATION TO THE PRG WOULD BE EXTENDED AT THE 27TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA, MAY 7-25. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DFA WOOLCOTT HAD UNDERTAKEN TO RAISE THE MATTER ONCE AGAIN WITH WILLESEE. THIEP SAID THAT HE HAD MENTIONED TO WOOLCOTT THAT, IF AUSTRALIA DECIDED TO ABSTAIN ON AN INVITATION TO THE PRG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD HEALTH MEETING, THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE PUBLIC THE FACT THAT IT DID NOT AGREE WITH AUSTRALIAN POLICY ON THIS ISSUE. THIEP SAID HE HAD NOTED THAT IF THIS ISSUE ENTERED THE FORTHCOMING AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN, THIS WAS NOT THE CHOICE OF THE GVN. THIEP ASKED FOR MY ASSISTANCE IN CONVINCING THE GOA IT SHOULD NOT CHANGE ITS POLICY ON THE PRG. I SAID THAT I ANTICIPATED GETTING IN TOUCH WITH SENATOR WILLESEE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ON A NUMBER OF OTHER POINTS AND THAT I WOULD MENTION OUR CONCERN ON THE MATTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 02424 250521Z

5. WHEN I SAW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SENATOR WILLESEE ON APRIL 24, I WENT THROUGH THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST GIVING THE PRG AND GRUNK THE DIGNITY AND STATUS OF FULL PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. I DID NOT REFER TO MY MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR THIEP, BUT WILLESEE MAY WELL CONCLUDE THAT I WAS SUPPORTING THIEP. I NOTED THAT NONE OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THE PRG AND THE GRUNK AND THAT NORHT VIET-NAM DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE

PRG. I SAID I HOPED AUSTRALIA WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THE PRG AND GRUNK AS ESSENTIALLY ILLEGITIMATE ORGANIZATIONS AND WOULD SUPPORT THIS POSITION BY VOTING AGAINST THEIR ADMISSION TO INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS, RATHER THAN BY ABSTAINING ON THE VOTE.

6. I NOTED THE CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THE ISSUE CAUSES THE UNITED STATES. WE SUPPORT THE PARIS AGREEMENTS ON VIET-NAM OF 1973 AND HOPE THAT NORTH VIET-NAM WILL BEGIN TO RESPECT THEM MORE FULLY. THERE ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT NORTH VIET-NAM GOING THROUGH DIFFICULT PERIOD AND NEEDS OUTSIDE AID. THE BEST WAY TO PERSUADE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO LIVE UP TO THE PARIS AGREEMENTS IS TO MAKE CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEIR EFFORTS TO OVERTURN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND CAMBODIA THROUGH THE PRG AND THE GRUNK HAVE FAILED. GIVING DIGNITY AND STATUS TO THE PRG AND GRUNK CUTS ACROSS THESE EFFORTS. FINALLY, WE WOULD HOPE AUSTRALIA WOULD BEAR IN MIND IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS ISSUE JUST AS WE WOULD BEAR IN MIND OUR INTERESTS IN AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE (SUCH AS PNG) WHERE AUSTRALIA HAD A PRIMARY INTEREST.

7. SENATOR WILLESEE SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DID NOT SEEM TO BE VERY KEEN ON THE PRG AND DID NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE THEM TOWARDS GREATER INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE ISSUE OF AUSTRALIAN POLICY ON VOTING ON INVITATIONS TO THE PRG/GRUNK IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, VOTING ABSTENTIONS, DIPLOMA TIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT IN EXILE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER02424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740097-0671
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740419/aaaaaqfc.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 062535
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON ADMISSION OF PRG TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, VS, AS, US, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005